



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 6  
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Office of the Regional Administrator

July 23, 2021

Toby Baker  
Executive Director  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087 (MC 109)  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087  
[Toby.Baker@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Toby.Baker@tceq.texas.gov)

Dear Mr. Baker:

On March 31, 2020, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued a Management Alert (<https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/report-management-alert-prompt-action-needed-inform-residents-living-near>) that identified an urgent need to educate and inform residents near ethylene-oxide (EtO) emitting facilities about the health hazards of ethylene oxide (EtO) after the 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment was released. As EPA pursues its mission to protect human health and the environment, addressing risk related to EtO is a priority for the Agency. EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan has directed several EPA Regions to update information on emissions and risk in areas identified in the 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment. EPA Administrator Regan has made it clear that EPA will lean forward and conduct community outreach to ensure all communities are informed, especially those that are underserved.

EPA has completed facility-specific technical assessments on three chemical facilities located in Texas, listed in the OIG Management Alert. We are appreciative of the cooperation and information received from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which was critical to completing the technical assessments. This letter is to notify you that we will be releasing the technical assessments next week and announcing a series of virtual community meetings to provide residents and public officials with information about EtO and its health effects, including community-specific risk information.

Enclosed please find an advance copy of the technical assessment reports for the below-listed following chemical facilities in Texas. This information will be available and shared at the community meetings and will be made available on the EPA website next week.

Indorama Ventures (formerly Huntsman - Port Neches Operations), Port Neches, Texas  
6001 FM 366, Port Neches, Texas 77651

Eastman Chemical Texas Operations, Longview, Texas  
300 Kodak Boulevard, Longview, Texas 75602

Shell Technology Center, Houston, Texas  
3333 Highway 6, Houston, Texas 77082

We will continue to work through the many technical and regulatory challenges with the companies, specifically Indorama, and you to further reduce and control emissions of ethylene oxide from these facilities.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and look forward to further communication between our respective staff. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-2100 or Frances Verhalen at (214) 665-2172.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Gray".

David W. Gray  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure1: Technical Assessment Report Eastman Chemical  
Enclosure 2: Technical Assessment Report Indorama  
Enclosure 3: Technical Assessment Report Shell Technology Center